



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

FWP Program List for Managing (Hunting) Access on PRIVATE Lands

Program	Details/Goals	2021 Summary Statistics	Landowner Benefits
Block Management (BMA)	Long-standing, cooperative, adaptable program designed to maintain hunting heritage and traditions by providing landowners tangible benefits to encourage public access to private land, promote partnerships between landowners, hunters, and FWP and help manage wildlife resources and impacts of public hunting on private lands.	Over 1,200 private landowners, 1400 contracts, 900 BMAs. Landowners compensated over \$7 million (and 1,100 complimentary licenses), for 603,000 of hunter day impacts on nearly 6 million private land acres. Additionally, 20% of the state's inaccessible public lands are made accessible because of BMA. Over 618,000 land-locked public land acres opened annually.	Payment (\$25,000 cap per landowner) and Hunter Management Services through FWP. Enrollment Payment (\$250), Aggregate hunter day bonus and incentive (20%+ \$1,000), up to \$13/HD impact, 5% contract total for weed management, complimentary license (resident sportsman without bear/non-resident big game combo + perquisites) and complimentary subscription to Montana Outdoors.
Regional Access Projects (RAP)	Program seeks to work with private landowners to create, protect or improve access to private lands where needs fall outside the scope of Block Management.	Implemented approximately 20 Regional access projects to improve access for PTHV hunters, sheep hunters, archery hunters in city limits, waterfowl hunters, and produced maps/rules and signage for private landowners.	Payment and/or Hunter Management Services through FWP. Payment = basic Block Management impact payment (currently \$7.80/HD). No license benefit or weed management benefit. Benefits can include reimbursement for infrastructure to facilitate public access to private lands.
Managed Access Project Sites (MAPS)	Program seeks to work with private landowners to achieve a species-specific harvest by using and coordinating landowners with public hunters.	Elk hunt information coordinators (HICs) in Region 2 and Region 4 used the program to facilitate elk harvest on private lands during the late shoulder seasons. In the previous two seasons, HICs in White Sulphur Springs documented nearly 2,700 phone calls and arranged over 1,000 hunter reservations for elk hunting.	Payment and/or Hunter Management Services through FWP. May utilize a hunt coordinator and may compensate landowners through negotiated payment. FWP may also develop rules, maps and signage for properties enrolled.
Public Elk Hunting Access Agreements (HB454)	Program seeks to encourage public hunting opportunity on private lands in exchange for the landowner receiving an either-sex or antlerless permit, license or combination thereof at no cost.	Over the past 10 years, the Department issued 2 or 3 agreements. Approximately 13 public elk hunting access agreements will be implemented in 2021.	Complimentary either-sex or antlerless license, permit or combination thereof. FWP may also produce maps, rules for public hunters in collaboration with landowner.
Livestock Loss Reimbursement	Program provides livestock producer fair-market value compensation for livestock that is shot or injured as a result of allowing public hunting.	No cases have been reported so far in 2021. In 2019-2020, 7 claims were filed with a total of \$2,750 of hunter license dollars being used to compensate producers for losses.	Producers compensated fair market value (maximum of \$3,500) for the loss. If the livestock was not a complete loss, salvage value may also be paid for the damages.



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

FWP Program List for Managing (Hunting) Access on PRIVATE Lands (continued)

Program	Details/Goals	2021 Summary Statistics	Landowner Benefits
Recreation Management Area (Biennial Commission Rule) Program	FWP agrees to manage and enforce recreation rules year-round on large tracts of land in exchange for free year-round public access.	In 2021, the FW Commission approved a biennial rule on the Stimson Lumber Company Lands, The Nature Conservancy Lands and Avista Utilities Lands allowing for year-round access on over 275,000 acres of private lands in R1 and R2.	Commitment by FWP to provide hunter and general recreation management and enforcement dependent upon need, property rules and program availability year-round in lieu of a payment. FWP will also develop property maps with associated rules for each property enrolled in collaboration with the landowner.
Long-Term Hunting Access Program	FWP agrees to perpetual or long-term management of (hunting) access on private lands.	No projects in 2021. Prior years, NRDP provided funding to a land trust to purchase a conservation easement and assigned the public access portion and management to FWP.	FWP may provide a one-time up-front payment based on the amount and duration of access provided. Alternatively, or in addition, FWP may agree to manage access.

FWP Program List for Public (Hunting) Access to PUBLIC Lands

Program	Details/Goals	2021 Summary Statistics	Landowner Benefits
Public Access Land Agreements	Provides public corridor for public access to inaccessible/under-accessible public (state and federal) lands on a year-to year basis for hunting, fishing and/or all recreations. Projects reviewed by PL/PW and approved by the Director.	38 projects opening over 300,000 acres of public lands for recreation.	Payment (\$15,000 cap per agreement) and Hunter Management Services through FWP. Landowner eligible for reimbursement payment for infrastructure improvements to facilitate access. Enrollment Payment (\$250), Compensation based on established scoring and assessment criteria and values. Improvements set at \$1,000 per year enrolled.
Access Public Lands Program (Home to Hunt)	Seeks to secure public hunting access across private land to inaccessible public lands in term lengths or perpetuity. Projects may also consist of signing projects, right-of-way research, installation and reimbursement of infrastructure to facilitate public access.	No projects in 2021. In recent years, funds contributed to public road research, purchasing a right-of-way easement, conducting signing projects on public lands and contributed towards purchases of easements that opened large portions of public lands.	Benefits could include a payment, signing projects, rights-of-way acquisitions and easements in term lengths or perpetuity, installation infrastructure that serves as incentives to help secure additional access across private to public lands.
Unlocking Public Lands	Provides public corridor for public access to legally inaccessible public (state and federal) lands on a year-to year basis for all recreations as permitted on public lands.	5 landowners and 6 projects to open inaccessible State and BLM lands.	Landowner receives \$750 state income tax credit (up to 4 total) for allowing public access.



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

FWP Program List for Public (Hunting) Access to PUBLIC Lands (continued)

Program	Details/Goals	2021 Summary Statistics	Landowner Benefits
Block Management Access Corridor	Provides public corridor for public access to inaccessible/under-accessible public (state and federal) lands on a year-to-year basis for hunting.	Has not been utilized often with 3 projects in 2021. Reduced payment for landowners compared to existing BMA payment.	Landowner receives payment (cap \$25,000) and hunter management services. Enrollment payment (\$250), up to \$5.20/HD, weed management incentive, complimentary license and Montana Outdoors subscription.
HB 637 Program (New in 2021)	Created to secure public access to public lands for all recreations perpetually.	Administration of this program is under development for 2022.	One-time up-front payment. Details of payment TBD.